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## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARCIA L. FUDGE Applauds THE FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM

Warrensville Heights, OH - U.S. Representative Marcia L. Fudge applauds and supports the efforts exercised by the law enforcement community and the faith-based community to continue the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program.

This outstanding program was initiated in Cleveland, Ohio in 2005, after the death of Cleveland patrolman Wayne Leon, who was shot and killed by a fugitive with an outstanding warrant.

United States Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio Peter J. Elliott was the founder of this innovative program. Fugitive Safe Surrender has been successful in thirteen cities around the nation based on Cleveland's original model. The implementation of the program has helped over 18,000 fugitives nationwide obtain a unique opportunity to gain a new start in their lives.

In a majority of cases, a collection of community members invite those with outstanding warrants to surrender themselves at a local church. The church has served as a sanctuary and a desirable place for individuals to extinguish their local and federal warrants.

"A fresh start is a path to a new and brighter future for those individuals participating in the Fugitive Safe Surrender program. This is a crucial step in breaking the cycle of criminality that has existed, and opens the door for re-entry into our community," commented Representative Fudge.

The program is a faith based project that encourages felony fugitives to voluntarily surrender, without offering amnesty. The goal of the unique program is to reduce the risk to neighborhoods in which fugitives hide, and potential risk to law enforcement officers who pursue fugitives.

For more information on this program please contact the office of Representative Marcia L. Fudge at (216) 522-4900.